

Comments from mentors about the training:

“I always enjoyed the training sessions and felt the trainers did a great job.”

“I think the training was great. I enjoyed my mentoring partners.”

“Program is to the point—very informative. Facilitators were awesome (especially high school). Thank you.”

“The new program is much better than the “gray box”.”

“I enjoyed the time to share experiences.”

“This has been a very comprehensive overview of the mentoring process—the best I’ve seen. Congratulations on your efforts as they are well appreciated.”

“I am totally pleased with my training.”

Unsolicited comments about the mentoring experience:

“Thanks for a fun-filled learning experience. What a great opportunity!”

“My mentee had a great first year of teaching. For me, once again, the mentor learns as much as the mentee.”

“Thank you for all you have done for me and this program. In my life, certainly, this was one of the most valuable things I’ve learned and done. Thank you and God bless you!”

“Thanks! It’s been an incredible experience.”

“Thank you so much for the experience of mentoring. I have really enjoyed it.”

“It has been a great experience, and I know I have grown professionally because of the time I spent mentoring. Thanks so much for the opportunity.”

“We have had a great year. It has been very beneficial for my mentee and ALSO for me! Thanks for the opportunity you have provided new teachers and all teachers.”

“The mentoring program is the best professional development out there. I have grown so much from the program.”

“I am glad that I had the opportunity to participate in the program because I feel that it greatly benefited me as a professional also. I look forward to working with you again.”

Suggestions from mentors:

Material:

Could you provide a form to be used during the observation of the mentee?

Provide a manual for the mentee, and let us know what needs to be shared with the mentee.

Personality/learning style inventories and discussion might aid mentors in better understanding why their mentees behave or act the way they do.

Overall, I believe teachers need more training on assessment. This includes understanding state assessments and the importance of teaching to state standards.

I found the binder was difficult to follow and could be better organized in categories, i.e. parent/teacher conferences, observation, classroom management, listening, curriculum and standards, etc.

Would it be possible to have a part focused on special education? As a special ed. teacher and mentor for a special ed. resident teacher, I have felt that many sessions did not apply to me.

Training:

Bring mentees to one of the training sessions to include them sooner.

We need to have more mentee/mentor discussions with other mentees/mentors from around the state.

Try to have more time with mentees so they have some of the same information as mentors.

Simplify the domain section to do more application with performance.

I'd like to hear viewpoints/perspectives from mentees who were in the program.

Let us know how to pick up a mentee in the middle of the year.

We need an additional discussion on confidentiality.

Why were we told to bring the state standards/benchmarks for our curriculum area last time when we didn't use them for anything?

Instead of broad brush strokes on the dimensions, identify specific elements and develop them more. While I like Danielson, so much is about detailed self-assessment, and I found my mentee really isn't ready for that.

Consider having a first or second year teacher give his/her perspective on important issues.

Some reading assignments could be assigned prior to the mentoring sessions, so less time could be spent on reading curing class and more time can be devoted to discussion/strategies/methods

Trainers:

We listened to one of the presenters badmouth her colleagues for much of the day—a complete waste of time. I know the people she was talking about and I found her behavior very unprofessional. It left a bad taste about this program. (other similar comments)

One trainer did not know his content area. He could not relate anything to subject area except for refining and more refining and more refining. We were not impressed. Did you need a male presenter to balance the team? (other similar comments)

One trainer just read to us. He didn't seem prepared. He complained about not getting paid for curriculum mapping. Very unprofessional.

Coordination:

It would be have to have the administration more active in this program. (other similar comments)

It would be quite helpful if the last day folders could have been prepared in advance – why not put the certificates in the folders with name labels along with the day's agenda and *check out forms*? It would be so much more time efficient. (other similar comments)

Expectations were not clearly laid out during the first day opening session. A schedule of the first day format would have been much appreciated.

Allow more time for lunches – it is too hurried!

Saturday morning was very unorganized. (other similar comments)

Have registration in the evening.